

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region



**Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands  
Pikes Peak Ranger District  
601 South Weber Street  
Colorado Springs, CO. 80903**

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### **PIKES PEAK RANGER DISTRICT TEMPORARILY CLOSED CRAGS AREA UNTIL HAZARD TREES ARE REMOVED**

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., May 23, 2016...**The Pikes Peak Ranger District of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest has temporarily closed the Craggs area, including the Craggs Campground and Forest Road 383, due to a large number of trees that pose a safety hazard to the public.

U.S. Forest Service personnel have discovered hazardous trees in areas frequently used by visitors for camping. A spruce beetle infestation several years ago has left many of the shallow rooted spruce trees standing dead along Forest Road 383. The closure will last several weeks until the hazard trees can be cut from the campground and parking areas.

This closure prohibits all public entry into the area including camping, day use, hiking, and access to the Craggs and Devils Playground trails off of Forest Road 383 in Teller County.

Hazard tree removal and associated road closures are expected along FS Road 383 over the next few years. Initially, crews will work to improve safety near the campground and trailheads, but will continue working along the roadway later this fall and in future years.

Once U.S. Forest Service crews have finished cutting the hazard trees in the campground and at the trailheads, the road will re-open, however camping will be only allowed in the Craggs Campground and parking will only be allowed at designated trailheads and within the campground. Dispersed camping and campfires along FS Road 383 will be prohibited due to safety concerns from the hazard trees once the road has been re-opened.

The Craggs Area is a popular area for camping with the trailheads that lead to popular destinations such as the rocky outcropping of "The Craggs" and the summit of Pikes Peak via the Devils Playground Trail.

Visitors are urged to take extra precautions when recreating in the area this summer due to the number of hazard trees in the vicinity.

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For more information about the Craggs area and closure, please contact the Pikes Peak Ranger District at (719) 636-1602. More information about alternate camping and recreation areas can also be found on Recreation.gov: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or, the Pike-San Isabel National Forest public website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/psicc>

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Above, Dawn Sanchez, Fire Prevention Officer for the Pikes Peak Ranger District demonstrates safe practices for cutting down a tree.